

MARKET HARBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.ANNUAL REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND
SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR 1944.

Gentlemen,

We beg to present our annual report for 1944 with vital statistics.

Area (in acres)	4,771
Population (1944)	9,972
Number of inhabited houses	2,944
Rateable value	£265,390
Sum represented by penny rate ...	£265

Vital Statistics.

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Live Births: Legitimate	187	93	94
Illegitimate	13	6	7
	<u>200</u>	<u>99</u>	<u>101</u>
Still Births: Legitimate	2	0	2
Illegitimate	1	0	1
	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>
Deaths under one year: Legitimate	9	4	5
Illegitimate	0	0	0
	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
Deaths (all ages)	127	61	66
			<u>England & Wales</u>
			1944.
Live birth-rate (per 1000 population):	20.0 (1943-17.7)		17.6
Still " " " " :	0.3 -		0.5
Death-rate " " " :	12.6 (1943-10.5)		11.6
Infant mortality Rate (" " live-births);	45.0 (1943-32.5)		46.0

Industries. The changes in industry due to war-time conditions are gradually beginning to return to normal.

Population. According to the Registrar General's figures, this has very nearly returned to its pre-war figure, viz. 9,972 for 1944 and 9,417 in 1938.

Day Nursery. The nursery for the children of mothers who go to work is admirably managed by matron and her staff. The staff comprises Matron, Deputy-Matron, Warden, 3 Assistant Nurses, 2 helpers and 2 domestics. The nursery can accommodate 48 children, and the average daily attendance for the year was 30 children. There have been no epidemics and no accidents.

Social Centre, for evacuated women continued in operation. It provides facilities for washing, needlework, baths and recreation.

Birth-rate. This has again gone up and was 20.0 this year, the rate for England and Wales being 17.6.

Death-rate. Higher than usual, and slightly above the average for the country.

Infant Mortality Rate. This also is higher than usual, and just below the country average.

Puerperal Fever. There were two cases of puerperal pyrexia, but there were no deaths from puerperal causes.

Causes of Death. Amongst the causes of death at all ages were:-

Cancer	24
Stroke	9
Heart Disease ...	26
Pneumonia	5
Tuberculosis ...	6

There was, again, no death due to road accident. Also no deaths from:-

Measles
Whooping Cough
Diarrhoea (under 2)

Laboratory Facilities. Laboratory examinations carried out in the County Council Laboratory included:-

Milk examinations (bacteriological) ...	35
Swabs for diphtheria... ..	16
Sputa for T.B.	48
Sewage and Water analysis	124
Urine (bacteriological)	9
Urine (for T.B.)... ..	9
Films for Gonococci	5
Blood for Wasserman	10
Miscellaneous	5

Ambulance Facilities. These are provided entirely by the St. John Ambulance Brigade, and many thanks are due to the highly efficient local division, who have, as usual, carried out their duties most efficiently and who give their services voluntarily. Thanks are also due to employers who give their men time off to carry out their ambulance duties.

Home Nursing. One district nurse-midwife is provided by the local hospital (subsidised by the local authority). No provision of extra nurses has been made by the Council.

Centres and Clinics. There are no treatment clinics in the area except the scabies clinic. The M. & C.W. Clinic holds sessions every Wednesday afternoon, and is in the charge of the Health Visitor and a voluntary staff of ladies; a doctor attends the clinic every session, and sees local and evacuated persons on alternate weeks. There is one whole-time Health Visitor, for residents, and also a part-time Health Visitor for evacuees, both of whom are Council employees. All children under 5 are regularly visited in their homes by the Health Visitors, who also distribute cod-liver oil, fruit juice etc. on specified days.

Hospitals. There is one small voluntary hospital with about 20 beds for general cases and a maternity ward of 15 beds. The hospital is subsidised by the local authority. The Public Assistance Infirmary has 50 beds.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis. Provision is made by the Council for free immunisation of all children, those under 5 at the M. & C.W. centre and over 5 at the schools, thanks to the courtesy and co-operation of the teachers. Approximately 95% of school children were immunised within the first 2 years of the campaign. The immunisation of infants continues to be very satisfactory; about 50% of one year old babies were immunised at the M. & C.W. Clinic alone. Arrangements have been made with the school nurse so that 5 to 6 year olds

who have not been inoculated since infancy are reported to the M.O.H. and given one further injection.

Scabies Clinic. This is open, when required, one day a week for males and one day for females. The number of cases treated dropped from 96 in 1943 to 18 in 1944.

Health Service Officers.

1 Medical Officer of Health (part-time)
1 Sanitary Inspector (whole-time)
1 Health Visitor (whole-time)
1 " " for evacuees (part-time)

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water. During the year, three samples from the public pipe supply were submitted for bacteriological examination and the reports were satisfactory.

The continued drought caused a steady reduction in the amount of water coming from the public supply wells. The River Welland water, settled, filtered and chlorinated through the Public Baths plant, was used continuously throughout the year, and this coupled with very strict economy enabled a continuous service to be maintained except for a few high points where water was not available during the afternoons. Samples were taken for bacteriological examination from the Baths pool twice weekly, after treatment and before pumping into the Service mains. As in previous years, the demand from military and prisoners of war camps, munition works and evacuee population greatly increased the amount of water consumed.

By arrangement with the owners, a supply formerly serving a brewery has been temporarily taken over, and, although analyses showed it to be quite suitable for human consumption in its raw state, it was found more economical to put it into the River Welland settling tank and treat it with this water, as direct pumping would have involved considerable expense and wayleaves.

There have been no permanent extensions of supplies during the year.

Reports by the Engineer and Consultants upon a scheme for providing additional water have been under consideration and the views of other authorities concerned are now being awaited.

Twenty-four samples from private wells were examined for the presence of pollution, and were found to be satisfactory.

	<u>Houses.</u>	<u>Population.</u>
Number supplied from private wells	58	196
Number supplied from Public Water		
Mains:-		
(a) Direct to the houses	2,686	9,099
(b) By means of stand-pipes	200	677

A copy of the bacteriological report of the Leicestershire County Council, dated 13th October, 1944, regarding the last sample from the town main, is appended:-

"The sample showed no evidence of coliform organisms, and the plate count was almost sterile."

Drainage and Sewerage. There have been no extensions during the year. Further progress has been made with the Scheme for the re-organization of the disposal works.

Closet Accommodation. Twenty-two water closets have been connected to the sewerage system, thus making a total of approximately 4,130 in the area. About twenty outlying properties have sanitary arrangements of the conservancy kind.

Public Cleansing. As far as possible, all houses are provided with dustbins for the storage of domestic refuse. Despite the difficulty of obtaining bins, fifty new ones were provided by owners to replace those worn out, upon receipt of a notification from the Health Department. A weekly collection of house refuse and salvaged materials is in operation throughout the District. During the year, the quantity received at the Destructor Depot was 2,471 tons, of which the following materials were salvaged:-

	Tons	Cwts.
Paper	53	1
Metal	74	11
Textiles	13	19
Bottles and Jars	3	1
Bones	9	14
Rubber... ..		5
	<u>154</u>	<u>11</u>

The latter quantities are similar to those of the previous year.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Complaints received and investigated	315
Defects or nuisances dealt with	455
Informal Notices served	245
Statutory Notices served	0

Inspections.

	<u>1st Visits.</u>	<u>Re-Visits.</u>
Animal keeping	41	9
Bakehouses	10	15
Dairies and Cowsheds	16	52
Dwelling-houses... ..	293	250
Factories, etc.... ..	53	18
Food premises	63	131
Offensive trades	3	1
Rats and Mice Destruction	249	603
Shops	24	20
Slaughter house... ..	1	284
Tents, vans, sheds etc.... ..	3	1
Verminous premises	26	42
Water supplies	24	3
Other premises	55	109
	<u>861</u>	<u>1536</u>

Dwelling houses.

General structural repairs effected	30
Drains and sanitary fittings repaired and new provided	32
Dustbins provided	50
Cleansing and other defects remedied	11
Licences renewed under Defence Regulation 68 AA... ..	2

Factories, etc.

New sanitary accommodation provided... ..	1
Means of escape in case of fire:-	
Improved... ..	1
Certificates issued	2

Shops.

Sanitary convenience provided	1
Other defects remedied	3

Miscellaneous Nuisances.

Drainage defects repaired	15
Drains and fittings tested... ..	1
Offensive accumulations removed	9
Animal keeping nuisances abated	6
Other Defects remedied	29

Public Mortuary. The care of the building in King's Road was undertaken on November 7th by arrangement with the Leicestershire County Council. The interior has been renovated, suitable equipment provided and arrangements made for regular cleaning and attention.

Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Infected rooms fumigated	88
Verminous rooms treated	86
Articles of bedding, clothing etc.:-	
Steam disinfected	1892
Destroyed	30
Other articles disinfected... ..	287
Number of instances of bug infestation:-	
Council Houses (Evacuee Hostels)	1
Other " (do.)	3
Articles of furniture from Evacuee Hostels and billets fumigated in gastight chamber owing to bug infestation or as a precaution	994
Number of persons affected with lice cleansed	2

Rats and Mice Destruction. Meetings of representatives of this Council and of the Market Harborough Rural District Council took place and it was finally decided to jointly appoint a full time Rats Officer to operate one week in the former area and two weeks in the latter alternately. Accordingly the appointment was made on June 14th and the Rats Officer commenced duties on July 24th. A scale of charges was adopted by the Council to meet the needs of occupiers who desired the services of the Rats Officer in the destruction of rodents on their premises.

Courses of instruction in rodent destruction, arranged by the Ministry of Food, were attended by the Sanitary Inspector in March and by the Rats Officer in October. These courses were held in Nottingham.

The following is a statement of work done during the year under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act 1919 and the Infestation Order 1943:-

Reports of infestations investigated	142
Infestations dealt with:- Rats 180, Mice 26	206
(Classification of infestations:- Major 0, Medium 17, and Minor 189)	
Premises visited... ..	249
Repeat visits	603
Pre-baits laid	166
Poison baits laid	2165
Occasions when gas used	8
" " traps set for:- Rats 7, Mice 88	95
Dead bodies removed after poisoning or gassing, and from traps:- Rats 53, Mice 107	160
Requests for services by payment	19
Proofing of buildings carried out	32
Refuse removed and other improvements effected	12

The infestations dealt with include :-
allotments 3, billet 1, canals 2, ditches 2, drain 1, factories 8,
food premises 15, hedgerow 1, hostel 1, hotels 3, houses and surround-
ings 93, institution 1, pigsties 4, poultry pens 23, recreation
grounds 2, refuse and sewage disposal sites 3, rivers and streams 6,
school 1, sewer manholes 7, shops 6, warehouses 10, workshops 2,
other premises 11.

Special Classes of Premises and Occupations subject to Control.

Written Consent to establishment of trade of
Rag and Bone Dealer renewed 1

Petrol and Carbide Stores.

	Petroleum Spirit	Carbide of Calcium.
Number of Licences issued	-	-
" " " renewed	30	1
" " contraventions rectified	7	0

Swimming Bath. The Council's covered pool was not opened for swimming purposes during the year, owing to the fact that the purification plant was utilised for the emergency water supply.

HOUSING.

No new houses have been built during the year.

Considerable progress has been made in the preparation of lay-out plans of sites and the design of houses in connection with the Council's Post War Housing Programme.

The Council have purchased the necessary additional land which, together with that left unused from the 1919 Scheme, will enable a first instalment of 100 houses to be erected. The lay-out plan of roads has received approval by the Ministry and the construction is included in the Leicester Group 1. House plans have been prepared and are under discussion with the Regional Office.

Lay-out plans for the development of a site of 150 acres on community lines including areas both for municipally owned and private enterprise houses, have been prepared and are under preliminary consideration by various Ministries and Departments concerned.

The Council have in mind, as a means of catering for urgent temporary housing, the use of a prisoners of war camp and the adaptation of buildings thereon to living accommodation.

General maintenance repair work to existing houses continues to present a serious problem owing to the shortage of labour, and considerable delays frequently occur in attending to urgent sanitary defects.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 162
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 254
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 -
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation -
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 25

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers

27

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding.

There has been no improvement in the overcrowding situation, and the shortage of houses is causing much concern.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply:-

<u>Trade.</u>	<u>No. on Register.</u>
Cowkeepers	9
Dairymen and Purveyors of Milk (other than cowkeepers)	4
Farms and other premises	21

The following licences have been issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1941:

"Pasteurised" Milk	1
do. - Supplementary (Retailing)	1
"Tuberculin Tested (Certified)" - Dealer's...	1
do. - Dealer's Bottling	1

Milk Sampling:-

<u>Class.</u>	<u>Number of samples taken for bacteriological examinations.</u>	<u>Number satisfactory.</u>	<u>Number unsatisfactory.</u>
"Tuberculin Tested"	1	1	0
"Accredited"	5	5	0
"Pasteurised"	4	3	1
Ordinary	8	8	0

All premises where milk is produced, treated or stored were inspected at varying intervals and in most instances the state of cleanliness was found to be satisfactory and efficient methods were in operation despite war-time difficulties. One sample of Pasteurised milk failed to pass the Methylene Blue Test. A careful inspection was made of the plant in operation and an adjustment was carried out to ensure adequate cleansing and sterilisation of bottles, and, as a result, a subsequent sample proved satisfactory. Six structural defects of dairy premises were rectified. One complaint of souring milk was received and investigated.

Meat and Other Foods.

Centralised slaughtering under the control of the Ministry of Food was continued at the Council's premises, which meets the needs of the town and surrounding rural area. During the year, 10,405 animals were slaughtered and all carcasses and organs were examined prior to distribution. The quantity condemned as unfit for human food amounted to 15 tons 1 cwt. 1 qr. 13 lbs.

Carcases inspected and condemned.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed and inspected	1,061	215	153	8,690	286
All diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole Carcases condemned	2	6	8	70	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	169	49	4	380	21
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	16.1	25.6	7.8	5.2	9.4
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned	10	9	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	117	36	-	-	5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	12.0	20.9	-	-	1.7

The demand for the inspection of doubtful or damaged foodstuffs, particularly rationed goods, has continued and 86 requests were complied with. A total of 24,051 lbs. 11 ozs. was found to be unfit for human consumption, and a considerable quantity of this was salvaged for other uses as required by the Ministry of Food.

Defects remedied at food premises:-

Cleansing carried out	2
Drainage defects attended to	6
Refuse removed	5
Other defects remedied... ..	4

Infectious Diseases.

The following were notified:-

Scarlet Fever ...	22	Measles... ..	5
Whooping Cough... ..	62	Pneumonia ...	4
Diphtheria ...	0	Puerperal Pyrexia ...	3

No deaths from notifiable disease.

Tuberculosis.New Cases:

	Pulmonary.	Non-pulmonary.
Male	7	1
Female	8	2
Total	<u>15</u>	<u>3</u>

Deaths:

Male	1	1
Female	2	2
Total	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES T. SCOTT,

Medical Officer of Health.

BERNARD G. ELLIOTT,

Sanitary Inspector.